ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER September 2013

The first meeting of the 2013-14 season will be on 19 September. It will be an informal gathering when members are invited to bring items for sale or exchange. Alex Walker has agreed to put up a standing display drawn from his philatelic terms collection. Thereafter, we will be treated to displays by four visitors, including the other half of the well-known philatelist brothers, Francis and Charles Kiddle, who travel to us from the south of England. Members will recall the recent visit by Francis with his remarkable displays of Tasmania revenues and goats. No doubt Charles's display will be equally special so don't miss it on 14 November.

The next Postal Auction will be held on 17th October 2013. Lots include very good surface printed QV GB, world paquebot covers and early Malaya states. As usual, for those on-line, scans of items will be sent on request and inspection of the lots is also possible but not during anti-social hours! Information from the Auctioneer, Mike Longhurst, tel 01224 861629, email AberdeenPSAuction@btinternet.com, address 20 Abbotshall Crescent, Aberdeen, AB15 9JP.

The Packet Secretary reports that the total sales last season was £602.21 with commission of £60.28 for the Society. Material is required for next season's packets with two packets ready to go. Watch for the Society's publicity in the Gazette in August and in the August-September issue of the Leopard, to attract new members.

Your committee recently debated whether some form of **hearing enhancement system** for our meetings is needed and would appreciate an indication of how many members feel that they would benefit, if a suitable portable system can be found. How many members have difficulty hearing speakers at the moment? Does the fault lie with the speakers, if only some of them could be persuaded to speak up?

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies annual Congress in Perth last April seemed to benefit from the ABPS national exhibition in Perth six months earlier, at least in terms of the number of entries in the national competition. Twenty-eight entries is a record and certainly more than usual in recent years, providing a very good show, although some might suggest the number is still modest bearing in mind that there are 44 affiliated societies in Scotland. Five gold medals were awarded, including one in the newly instituted Cinderella class. A trophy for the new class was donated by Jean Osborne from the Falkirk PS whose splendid entry of the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition labels was awarded the trophy! The more informal Open Competition attracted eight entries and was won, by popular vote, by our very own Vice-President, Ken Bruce showing "The Travels of HRH Prince Philip". I guess we could be seeing these pages on our society frames before long. It is time to start thinking about an entry into either the national or the open competitions in April 2014. The updated rules are not yet available, as I write, but will doubtless be little changed from this year and these can be emailed or otherwise sent to you. Another new class has been suggested for revenue stamps but no decision has been taken so far. It would be helpful to know what interest there is in revenues amongst the membership of Scottish societies. Do any of our members collect them seriously? An enthusiast who lives in the Borders is

interested in starting a Revenue Group in Scotland Anyone interested is invited to contact Victor Denovan by email at lorddenovan@btinternet.com or phone 01896820222.

A modest innovation at the 2013 Congress was the introduction of invited exhibits. Several societies who have not hosted Congress in recent years were invited to submit two frames of members' pages, and some very nice exhibits were received from Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and the Moray PS. Another successful innovation was the availability of two Post & Go machines, providing stamps endorsed "84th Scottish Congress 2013", so the event had its own commemorative stamp. They seem to have attracted quite a lot of attention in the philatelic press and sold very well, in part to dealers making so many purchases that collectors were having difficulty getting on the machines. The stamps and the computer generated receipts were quickly to be seen on ebay.

FEPA or the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, a body which our society is affiliated to indirectly through our affiliation to ABPS, publishes quite a handsome news journal. A recent issue announces a FEPA project entitled "How to change direction?" addressing worries about the future of philately. It lists seven concerns including declining numbers of collectors, societies and exhibitions, changes in the role of stamps in postal services and reduced commitment of postal entities to support philately, the switch in trade from shop-based to web-based, changes to the philatelic press and paper publications and the explosion of web sites devoted to philately. Its purpose seems to be to initiate a European-wide debate and to make recommendations for action. Incidentally, the news journal ran a report on our recent PERTH 2012 national exhibition, I think as an example of good news.

An Exhibition in 2015 seems a long time ahead but an international exhibition under the title of **LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX** is already being vigorously promoted and publicised. There will be 1400 frames of competitive exhibits so it should be quite a show. Incidentally, the closing date for entries is earlier than might be anticipated, 1 January 2014. The rising cost of staging big exhibitions is having the effect of reducing the number of international exhibitions, with postal institutions no longer providing substantial subsidies, so it is not surprising that the organisers are appealing for financial support from philatelic societies and individuals. £10 sponsors a frame and an entry of the donor's name in the catalogue. Further details from the website at http://www.london2015.net/.

Subscriptions

Members Subscriptions to the Society are due in September for the season 2013-14. The treasurer will receive subscriptions at the opening night, in cash or by cheque, and it would be helpful if the enclosed form could also accompany your payment. The form is also seeking your address if you have moved house in the last year; and your e-mail address, if you have one, or it has altered in the last year.

The subscriptions for the coming year are:- Town Members £12.00, and Country Members £6.00.

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Aberdeen Philatelic Society **Subscription Renewal – Season 2013-14**

I enclose my subscription of - Town Member £12.00.)
Country Member £6.00) *Delete as appropriate*

Name(*Print*)……... e-mail:…….…….

Address *(if changed)*……..……..

Treasurer: - D. A. Macdonald, 60 Earlspark Drive, ABERDEEN AB15 9AH